Mayor’s Message

Hello and welcome to the August edition of The City.

This month’s edition features updates on a range of exciting Council projects including all the latest news on the upcoming council elections (page 6).

Families will be keen to hear about the opening of the new Dandenong Park Regional Playground along with reports of other playground upgrades across the municipality (page 7).

Council is also proud to announce its latest round of community grants to support the excellent work of volunteer and community groups in our city (page 8 & 9).

The entire community is invited to a very special event at our libraries on 25 August to celebrate the National Year of Reading and the Reading Hour. There will be a host of free activities on offer (page 12).

And finally we have news of several exciting projects underway to help keep our city clean and green (pages 13 and 14).

Have a great month!

Mayor Youhorn Chea

Customer service centre addresses

Springvale office
397–405 Springvale Rd
Springvale

Dandenong office
39 Clov St
Dandenong

Keysborough centre
Shop A7 Parkmore
Shopping Centre
Keysborough

Paddy O’Donoghue Centre
18–34 Buckley Street
Noble Park

All correspondence to:
The City
PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au
9239 5100 or log on to www.greaterdandenong.com

@greaterdandy

facebook.com/greaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

Important numbers to remember

Emergency calls – Police/Fire/Ambulance................................................................. 000
Street Lighting Faults/ Non-operational – Alinta Hotline........................................ 13 20 99
Traffic Signal Faults/ Non Operational................................................................. 9239 5100
Hoon Hotline........................................................................................................... 1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection – WM Waste Management Services............................... 9721 1915
Australian Protection Society ................................................................................ 9798 8415
RSPCA ...................................................................................................................... 9224 2222
Nurse on Call .......................................................................................................... 1300 606 024

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.
Ross Reserve Athletics track has received a $470,000 upgrade to provide a top-quality all-weather athletics facility for the community. The major redevelopment was funded through a joint project by the City of Greater Dandenong, the Victorian Government, Springvale Little Athletics Club and the Victorian Masters Athletic Club. Resurfacing of the track is now complete with high-quality latex rubber surfacing installed over the eight-lane 400-metre all-weather athletics track.

A wide range of athletics events can also be staged in the precinct due to upgrades including:
- installation of long and triple jump for junior and senior athletics
- a newly resurfaced high jump and javelin area
- new drainage pits around the circular track
- a running rail along the track bends which is in line with regulations
- new line markings which are Athletics Victoria compliant for both little athletics and senior competition events.

The Ross Reserve Athletics track project will benefit our local athletics clubs, the many school and community groups that use the facility and the general public using the reserve.

Council encourages the community to check out the redeveloped facility and make use of the all-weather walking track which is open to everyone.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Youhorn Chea said the redevelopment was part of Council’s ongoing commitment to providing quality recreational opportunities to the whole community.

“Council wants to encourage our community to be active, healthy and engaged whether you’re an elite athlete, a junior joining in for fun or a community member taking a walk,” Cr Chea said.

“This project is just one of the many ways we are working to ensure our residents have a wide range of recreational options right on their doorstep.”

Cr Chea said the project was part of Council’s vision for the Ross Reserve precinct which includes the new state-of-the-art Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC), opened in February this year.

Future plans for the area include an Urban & Family Park next to NPAC. This will incorporate basketball courts and a skate park to give our young people a place to socialise and exercise.

Council is also preparing a Master Plan to guide future upgrades at Ross Reserve.

Funding boost for new library

The City of Greater Dandenong has received a $1.25 million grant from the Victorian Government for the new library and community meeting space in the Dandenong Connects Municipal Building Project.

The grant, which comes just weeks after the Australian Government contributed $6 million towards the project, will help create a new state-of-the-art regional library.

Local Government Minister Jeanette Powell announced the funding recently with $500,000 from the Community Support Grants program and $750,000 from the Living Libraries Infrastructure program – the largest grant available to local councils.

The new library will form part of the flagship Municipal Building Project for the revitalised Central Dandenong.

Mayor Youhorn Chea said the library will cover 2500 square metres and feature the latest in technology with a focus on training, literacy support services and learning resources – all in a modern, light-filled learning space.

“Local libraries play a key role in the life of our multicultural community and we are proud to have one of the highest levels of library usage in Victoria with more than one million visits each year,” Cr Chea said.
**PAPERBARK WARD:**

**Cr Roz Blades**

Everything is going well in Paperbark Ward.

As you can see from the photograph below, I have been joining the rest of the community in making good use of the warm water pool at the new Noble Park Aquatic Centre in Memorial Drive, Noble Park.

If you haven’t visited this fantastic new facility, which opened in February, I encourage you to come along and check out the 50m heated pool, water play area, warm water exercise pool and the refurbished water slide.

I am taking advantage of the water aerobic classes in both pools and trying to get a bit fitter. It really is fun. There are fitness classes to suit everyone and the staff are really friendly and helpful.

On Saturday 13 October the Noble Park Community Action Forum will host a gala awards dinner where we will be acknowledging the work of some of our hard-working community members.

Please get in touch with me if you would like to nominate a worthy person.

The person needs to have a medium or long-term connection to Noble Park to qualify.

I’d also like to invite the community to the official opening of the Noble Park Civic Space on Saturday 11 August at 11am.

We are also holding a family-friendly event The Little Day Out - for Big Imaginations at Ross Reserve on 30 September.

I am always happy to speak to residents and community groups. Don’t hesitate to speak to me if you see me out and about in the community. You can also ring me on 0417 053 612, land line 9701 5821, fax 9798 5927/9239 5369. I am always happy to talk to anyone about any issue.

**RED GUM WARD:**

**Cr Paul Donovan**

It’s an exciting time in Red Gum Ward with works commencing on the iconic new Municipal Building in Lonsdale Street.

Over the next few weeks the site will be completely cleared and prepared for construction works to start next month. The building is due for completion in early 2014.

During construction there will be some disruptions to footpath access surrounding the site, but Council is working hard to minimise the impact on traders, pedestrians and motorists.

And despite the hustle and bustle on-site, the surrounding traders are still open for business as usual – so don’t forget to keep supporting our local businesses.

Once complete the Municipal Building will form a focal point for the community and will be home to:

- a new state-of-the-art regional library over 2500 square metres complete with the latest technology
- a large outdoor space designed in the spirit of Federation Square complete with an events stage, café area, landscaping and giant video screen
- a one-stop shop for the community to access council services.

The Municipal Building is a key component in the transformation of our city that has included major Council projects and the State Government’s $290 million Revitalising Central Dandenong initiative.

Today the area boasts:

- a $20 million revamped Lonsdale street creating a practical and attractive main street for Dandenong
- the new Government Services Building
- the redeveloped Dandenong Market offering the best in fresh produce
- the $26 million Drum Theatre redevelopment
- Stockmans Bridge

Cr Donovan with the model of the new Municipal Building. Cr Blades at the new Noble Park Aquatic Centre.
Council Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in Springvale and the fourth Monday of the month in Dandenong.

The August meetings will be held:

- Monday, 13 August, Springvale Council Chambers, 397-405 Springvale Road, Springvale at 7pm.
- Monday, 27 August, Dandenong Council Chambers, 39 Clow St, Dandenong at 7pm.

To view meetings online, visit www.greaterdandenong.com
**Newsbriefs**

**Young Achiever Award**
Dandenong resident Victor Victor has been named 2012 Victorian Young Achiever of the Year.

Mr Victor, 19, who arrived in Australia as a refugee from Sudan was awarded for his extensive community work.

The award follows Mr Victor’s naming as Council’s 2012 Greater Dandenong Young Achiever of the Year.

**Pop-Up-Park honoured**
Dandenong’s Pop-Up-Park is a finalist in three categories of the 2012 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Awards.

It was nominated for the Community Action, Community Government Partnerships and Young Leaders Award.

Pop-Up-Park is a joint project between Places Victoria and Mission Australia.

Winners will be announced at the KABV Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches Award Night on July 27 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

**Dandenong Design Award**
Places Victoria has won a prestigious international design award for a Dandenong-based project.

The Wearhouse project received a Cannes Lion Silver Award for its branding of the innovative partnership with Mission Australia.

The initiative, part of the Revitalising Central Dandenong project, brought local young people together to design, make and sell bespoke clothing while gaining valuable skills.

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**COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2012**

**Voting**
Elections for the City of Greater Dandenong will be by attendance voting on Saturday, 27 October 2012. Everyone who is entitled to vote in Greater Dandenong will receive an EasyVote letter from the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) which will outline the methods of voting available. You will need to vote at an election centre.

If you are unable to vote on the day you may:

- attend an early voting centre at the election office, council offices or a Keysborough venue; or
- apply for a postal vote at www. vec.vic.gov.au from Wednesday 26 September

**Compulsory Voting**
If you are enrolled to vote for the State elections and are a resident of the City of Greater Dandenong, then you are automatically enrolled to vote at the Council elections in October 2012 and it is compulsory to vote.

**Other Entitlements to Vote**
If you are not automatically enrolled and pay rates in this city then you can apply to be included on the CEO’s List for special category voters. A person is only entitled to be on the voters roll for one address within any municipality.

If you are aged 70 years or over, or pay rates to Council but do not live in the City of Greater Dandenong, or are a non-Australian citizen who is on the voters roll for the City of Greater Dandenong, you are encouraged to vote but you will not be fined if you fail to vote.

**Recently Moved to Greater Dandenong?**
If you have recently moved to Greater Dandenong, you will need to fill out an enrolment form available from Council’s Customer Service Centres, any post office, Centrelink or the Victorian Electoral Commission by Friday 31 August at 4pm.

An Easy English Guide to Attendance Voting is also available at Council’s Customer Service Centres and libraries.

**Check Your Enrolment Details**
You can check your enrolment details during business hours from Monday 27 to Friday 31 August at Council’s Customer Service Centres and library branches.

**Candidate Information Sessions**
The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) are holding community and candidate information sessions across Victoria as part of the preparations for the 2012 Council elections.

The MAV candidate information session is on Wednesday 1 August 2012 6.30-9.30pm at Council’s Springvale offices, 397-405 Springvale Road.

This session will cover:
- the role and purpose of local government
- councillors’ roles, responsibilities and expectations
- the municipal area
- the electoral processes
- councillors’ experiences

The VEC candidate information session is on Wednesday 19 September 2012 7pm at Council’s Springvale offices.

This session will cover:
- the process of nominating as a candidate
- rules on submitting how-to-vote cards
- rules governing candidates’ election campaigns

The Returning Officer will make available the VEC’s Candidate Handbook and can schedule appointments for prospective candidates during the nomination period.

Details: Council’s Governance Unit on 9239 5309 or see:
www.mav.asn.au
www.vec.vic.gov.au
www.greaterdandenong.com
Families across Greater Dandenong will have access to a range of upgraded playgrounds as part of Council’s City Improvement Program.

In the past few months six playgrounds have been restored and upgraded under Council’s playground strategy.

Works have recently been completed at:
- GJ Duggan Reserve, Noble Park North
- Fillmore Road, Dandenong North
- Manks Court, Dandenong North
- McKeon Circuit, Dandenong North
- Naomi Court, Springvale South
- Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North

Next year Council will make a significant investment to upgrade the playground at Burden Park.

Community consultation on the upgrade will take place prior to works commencing.

Playgrounds are designated either neighbourhood, local or regional standard and offer families a safe and stimulating environment for children to play.

Mayor Youhorn Chea said playgrounds provided an important physical outlet for children, particularly in the age of video games and sedentary activities.

“Playgrounds enable children to grow and develop physically, mentally and socially,” Cr Chea said.

“Well-designed playgrounds enable children to climb, jump, balance and play creatively while interacting and enhancing social skills.”

Cr Chea said playgrounds also act as community meeting points where children, parents and carers from a wide variety of age groups and backgrounds come into contact in a friendly environment.”
Supporting our Community

Council is pleased to announce its latest round of grants to support local community groups that are making Greater Dandenong a more connected, vibrant and fairer place to live, work and study.

Over many years the council’s Community Support Grants program has helped young and old alike by funding a wide range of projects and events.

Recipients from the 2012 round one grants program, recently announced by council, include:

- a weekly exercise group for seniors
- community theatre productions
- festivals and events for multicultural groups
- a gala ball for people with disabilities
- local arts/crafts groups
- sporting events
- youth programs

Groups to receive funding include:

**Windmill Theatre:** $15,000 to hire the Drum Theatre to bring musical theatre productions to Greater Dandenong.

**Noble Park Community Centre:** $2500 to help stage the ever-popular Noble Park Community Art Show and $8000 to fund training for facilitators to run post-violence support programs for parents and children.

**Interfaith Network of the City of Greater Dandenong:** $11,500 for the annual gathering of the Interfaith Network at the Drum Theatre.

The network brings together a wide range of cultural and faith groups to help build understanding, tolerance and networking in our multicultural community.
How to apply:
The 2012-13 Community Support Grants Program allows local community groups and organisations to apply for grants of up to $20,000 to run projects and activities that will benefit local residents.

Applications for the final round of grants for 2012 are open 6 August – 14 September.

Groups who are successful in being awarded a grant will be given 12 months to complete the project.

All applications to the Community Support Grants Program must meet eligibility requirements set out in the Guidelines and Information booklet.

Application forms and the guidelines booklet are available at council customer service centres, libraries or online at www.greaterdandenong.com

Information sessions on the community grants program and how to apply will be held on the following dates:

**Wednesday 22 August**
- 10am-noon
- Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
- Springvale Council Offices

**Thursday 23 August**
- 6pm-8pm
- Training Room 1
- Dandenong Council Offices

Bookings are essential, phone 9239 5179 to register.
## August Community Events Calendar

### Monday
- **Little India Cultural Tour**
  - Date: 31 August
  - Venue: TBA

### Tuesday
- **Arctic Mirage Exhibition**
  - Dates: 1-28 August
- **3D Arctic Mirage Exhibition**
  - Dates: 1-28 August
  - Venue: Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
  - Phone: 9793 4511

### Wednesday
- **Pre-school Storytime**
  - Dates: 1-28 August
  - Venue: Springvale Library
  - Times: 9.45am ages 2-3, 11am ages 4 and over

### Thursday
- **Official Opening Dandenong Park Regional Playground**
  - Time: 11.30am-1pm
  - Details: Free BBQ, performers, children’s activities

### Friday/Saturday
- **Pre-school Storytime**
  - Venue: Dandenong Library
  - Dates: 1-28 August
  - Times: 9.45am ages 2-3, 11am ages 4 and over

### Monday
- **Noble Park Community Action Forum**
  - Date: 3rd Monday of the month
  - Time: 6-7.30pm
  - Phone: 1300 660 068

### Tuesday
- **Total Body Tone class**
  - Venue: Jan Wilson Centre
  - Time: Tuesdays 6pm
  - Phone: 9795 9279

### Wednesday
- **Neighbourhood Watch AGM**
  - Date: 4th Monday of every month
  - Time: 7.30-9pm
  - Venue: Paddy O’Donoghue Centre
  - Phone: 9771 6666

### Thursday
- **Afghan Bazaar Cultural Tour**
  - Date: 3rd Friday of every month
  - Time: 6.30pm
  - Phone: 9771 5777

### Friday/Saturday
- **Melbourne Racing Club**
  - Time: 7pm
  - Venue: Sandown

### Sunday
- **South Eastern Region Polio Support Group AGM**
  - Date: 1st Sunday of every month
  - Time: 1.30pm
  - Venue: Paddy O’Donoghue Centre
  - Phone: 9797 1757

### Monday
- **David Scheel**
  - Time: 10.30am
  - Venue: Drum Theatre
  - Phone: 9771 6666

### Tuesday
- **ERMA Mental Health Consumers Participation Forum**
  - Date: 4th Monday of every month
  - Time: 6pm
  - Venue: 67 Robinson St Dandenong
  - Phone: 9706 7388

### Wednesday
- **Melbourne Racing Club**
  - Time: 7pm
  - Venue: Sandown

### Thursday
- **Afghan Bazaar Cultural Tour**
  - Date: 3rd Friday of every month
  - Time: 6.30pm
  - Phone: 9771 5777

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**Note:** For more details, visit [www.greaterdandenong.com](http://www.greaterdandenong.com) (More details page 12)
### August Community Events Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Playground opening 4 August | Official Opening Dandenong Park
  **Regional Playground**
  11.30am-1pm
  Free BBQ, performers, children’s activities | Community Tree Planting
  **Dandenong Creek**
  10am-1pm
  Ph: 9797 1757 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 |
| James Tots Playgroup
  St James Anglican Church
  Langhorne Street Dandenong
  9.30-11.30am
  Ph: 9795 2587 | Community Tree Planting
  **Dandenong Creek**
  10am-1pm
  Ph: 9797 1757 | Springvale Rotary Market
  **Opposite Sandown Park Railway Station**
  8am-2pm
  Entry by gold coin donation
  Ph: 0425 806 006 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 |
| **Circus Oz**
  **Drum Theatre**
  Full length show 7.30pm
  Family shows 11am & 1pm
  Ph: 9771 6666 | The Ball
  **Springvale Town Hall**
  6pm
  Event for people with disabilities
  www.trybooking.com/BLJD | Circus Oz 16 & 17 August |
| 24 | 25 | 26 |
| **FReeZA Pushstart Battle of the Bands**
  **The Castle**
  7-11pm
  $10 | Melbourne Orchid Spectacular
  **Springers Leisure Centre**
  9am-5pm
  Entry $6, $4 seniors, free for primary aged children and younger | Melbourne Orchid Spectacular
  **Springers Leisure Centre**
  9am-4pm
  Entry $6, $4 seniors, free for primary aged children and younger |
| 31 | | |
| **Little India Cultural Tour**
  **Dandenong**
  6pm
  Ph: 9771 5777 | WOT Opera
  7pm
  **Drum Theatre**
  10.30am
  Ph: 9771 6666 | Sunday Market
  **Noble Park RSL**
  1128 Heatherton Rd
  7am-12pm |

For more details and updates, please visit [www.greaterdandenong.com](http://www.greaterdandenong.com)
The Reading Hour - free family fun day!

Greater Dandenong Libraries are proud to be part of the National Year of Reading 2012 which encourages a love for books and stories.

The National Year of Reading 2012 is about helping children and adults learn to read and encouraging keen readers. Most of all, it's about Australians becoming a nation of readers.

Throughout the year there will be many events at your local library and we invite you to celebrate with us.

A focal point of the National Year of Reading 2012 is The Reading Hour. Everyone, whether you’re young or old, can benefit from reading for at least an hour a week.

So join in The Reading Hour challenge and read a story with your child, enjoy a break at lunchtime with a book, get together with friends to talk about your favourite books, or encourage your school to incorporate an hour of reading into the school week.

Spending time reading each week is particularly important for young children and The Reading Hour encourages parents to spend a few minutes each day reading stories with their children.

To celebrate The Reading Hour, Greater Dandenong Libraries will be hosting a free family fun day on Saturday, 25 August.

The day of free activities will include children’s entertainers, author readings, family activities and a special Reading Hour from 6-7pm.

Activities include:

**Family Baby Bounce**
10.30-11am Springvale and Dandenong

**Family Storytime**
11.30am-noon Springvale and Dandenong

**Giggle the roving clown**
12.30-1.30pm Springvale Library

**Tall Ted roving bear**
12.30-1.30pm Dandenong Library

**Children’s crafts**
2-3pm Springvale and Dandenong

**Author talks with Sudanese author Carol Gogonya**
3.15-3.45pm Dandenong Library

**Aspiring writers’ workshop with Blaise Van Hecke**
4-5.30pm Dandenong Library

**Reading Hour Family Storytime**
6-7pm Springvale and Dandenong Library

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**Reading Hour Family Storytime**
6-7pm Springvale and Dandenong Library

For more information see www.greaterdandenong.com

Living Library – Borrow a ‘human book’ and listen to people’s fascinating life stories
4.15-5.30pm Dandenong Library
Bookings required

Becoming a member of the library has never been easier and the benefits have never been more rewarding. Being a member of the City of Greater Dandenong Libraries entitles you to receive a range of FREE services including:

- FREE membership
- FREE WiFi within the libraries
- FREE access to PCs and the Internet in our WebZone
- FREE access to materials in over 20 languages
- FREE access to e-books and online resources
- FREE holds and reserving of books (even from other libraries)
- FREE events throughout the year
- FREE programs for you and your families

Our programs have been designed for babies right through to seniors. The City of Greater Dandenong Libraries offer something for everyone and if you haven’t been to the library lately, there’s a lot you are missing out on.

Immunisation Timetable – August 2012

The 2012 Immunisation Timetable for the City of Greater Dandenong is available from Council's customer service centres or Maternal and Child Health centres. Phone Council on 9239 5100 for more information on the following immunisation sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 August</td>
<td>11am – noon</td>
<td>Springvale City Hall, 397-405 Springvale Road, Springvale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 August</td>
<td>6.30 – 7.30pm</td>
<td>Springvale City Hall, 397-405 Springvale Road, Springvale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 August</td>
<td>11am – noon</td>
<td>Paddy O’Donoghue Centre, 18-34 Buckley Street, Noble Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 August</td>
<td>2 – 3pm</td>
<td>Dandenong Library, Stuart Street, Dandenong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 August</td>
<td>1 – 2pm</td>
<td>Jan Wilson Community Centre, 1 Halton Road, Dandenong North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 August</td>
<td>5.30 – 7.15pm</td>
<td>Dandenong Library, Stuart Street, Dandenong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 August</td>
<td>1 – 2pm</td>
<td>Springers Leisure Centre, 400 Cheltenham Road, Keysborough</td>
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City of Greater Dandenong is partnering with the Victorian Government and other Melbourne councils in a new campaign, Get It Right on Bin Night, to improve recycling rates across metropolitan Melbourne.

The campaign marks the first time the Victorian Government and local councils have joined forces to implement a metro-wide recycling campaign that uses consistent messages and tools. Get it Right on Bin Night provides residents with tips and information to make recycling easier.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Youhorn Chea said recycling was a simple action that has enormous benefits for the environment.

“We know that everyone recycles, yet every week 300,000 wheelie bins full of items that could have been put in the recycling bin end up in landfill,” he said.

“By getting involved in this campaign we hope we will make some positive inroads into reducing landfill and increasing the amount of waste that is recycled each month.”

In 2010-2011 the City of Greater Dandenong collected approximately 12,600 tonnes of kerbside recycling. Council audits of kerbside bins revealed that an additional 20 per cent of items in the general waste bins could have also been recycled.

“We are encouraging residents not to put recyclables into plastic bags and to recycle items from every room in the house,” Cr Chea said.

“We are also encouraging residents not to place contaminants such as food waste, household chemicals, household goods and furniture into the recycling bin. Putting these items in your recycling bin can make it harder to sort and recycle the correct items, as well as damaging the machinery at the recycling plant.”

Top Recycling Tips

- **Check for recycling in every room:** Many items in your kitchen, bathroom, laundry, lounge and study can go into your recycling bin.

- **Make sure items are empty:** Items don’t need to be sparkling clean, just empty. Remove solid food scraps like pizza and leftovers stuck in cans, glass jars and plastic containers.

- **Keep recycling out of plastic bags:** Remember, if you put your recycling into plastic bags it can end up in landfill because it can’t be sorted and recycled.

- **Make recycling easy:** Placing separate rubbish and recycling bins in each room of your house helps make recycling easy.

- **Keep these items out of your recycling bin:** Green waste, food waste, household chemicals, electronics such as computers, TVs, mobile phones, household goods and furniture.

Greater Dandenong’s commitment to this campaign:

- Recycling education sessions to schools, community groups and new migrants including distribution of Get It Right on Bin Night materials.

- Recycling excursions and tours to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF).

- Get It Right on Bin Night promotion and information at all Council customer service centres, libraries and community centres.

To find out more see www.getitrightbinnight.vic.gov.au

Students at Noble Park Primary School learn which items to put in the school recycling bin.
New garden pops up

Council has joined forces with sustainability expert Michael Mobbs in a trial project to build instant gardens in urban areas.

An ecoPOP garden – featuring fruit trees, herb garden and recycled water system – has been built in Dandenong near the Pillars of Freedom war memorial in Clow Street.

The ecoPOP gardens take just one day to build and provide a range of aesthetic, environmental and social benefits to the community including:

- adds greenery and softens built environments
- produces food locally
- builds sense of community as people share in food produced
- provides shade and reduces heat
- reduces carbon impact
- can involve and engage disadvantaged groups during construction works

The project was funded by Michael Mobbs Sustainable Projects with support from a range of Council departments including parks and gardens, planning, engineering, urban design and social planning.

The ecoPOP garden has been well-received by the community and Council will investigate opportunities to expand the project in the future.

Green streets

A series of new planter boxes has added a splash of green to busy Lonsdale Street.

Council and Places Victoria have installed 52 plant-filled crates between Clow and Foster streets to further beautify Dandenong’s revamped main street.

They feature mostly native plants carefully selected by Council’s parks staff to display a range of foliage textures, colours and heights to add colour, life and interest to the busy streetscape.

The planter boxes will remain in the key pedestrian areas until March 2013 when the plants are replanted in local parks and a new plant display installed.

Landscaping has been a key part of the revitalised Lonsdale Street with the temporary planter boxes adding greenery to the street while the newly planted street trees are establishing themselves.

Council has been using planted crates for floral displays since 2006, with the Christmas and Easter floral displays a crowd favourite that help promote the shopping area and support local businesses during busy trading periods.
Careers in Council

Sharing stories

Council has joined forces with Dandenong’s Cornerstone Contact Centre to give needy people access to free books.

The Book Cart Project donates a wide range of much-loved books for use by the disadvantaged and homeless in our community.

Council’s Volunteer Co-ordinator Trish Roche said books were sourced from library surplus stock and council staff.

“The people at Cornerstone are grateful to have access to a wide choice of books to read,” Ms Roche said.

Cornerstone’s Pastor Don Cameron said the book cart had proved very popular and there was keen interest in the weekly visit.

“A lot of our clients are in their 40s and 50s – so the nostalgia items like books on Elvis Presley have proved very popular along with history and politics from that era,” he said.

Other topics of interest include crime, graphic art, craft, law, human rights, horses and tattoos.

In full Bloom

The next time you’re out and about in Greater Dandenong keep an eye out for some of the many beautiful parks and garden displays in our city.

Maintaining these areas takes many hours of work by Council’s dedicated Bushland and Garden Services Team.

They include qualified horticulturalist Andrea Cottrell who joined Council earlier this year.

Andrea and the Amenity Horticulture team are responsible for maintaining, designing and preparing ornamental garden beds across the municipality.

They are also the talented green thumbs behind the iconic planter boxes used in key shopping districts (see story page 14).

Ms Cottrell said she enjoyed the role particularly getting her hands dirty every day, designing garden displays and interacting with the public who are often thrilled with the colourful results.

“It’s great to be able to add a splash of colour to the local environment to brighten people’s days and help build pride in our area,” she said.

“People in the community love the floral displays and it’s always lovely when we are approached when working out in the field by people passing on positive feedback.”

Ms Cottrell said she was lucky to have such an enjoyable, creative job working outdoors – but was looking forward to Melbourne’s wet, cold weather making way for Spring sunshine.

Find out more about career opportunities with the City of Greater Dandenong at jobs.greaterdandenong.com
As part of the National Year of Reading we are launching the Human Library

Human Library
People, not pages

Launch date: Saturday 25 August
Location: Springvale Library
For session information and bookings:
Online at www.greaterdandenonglibraries.com
Phone: 1300 630 920
In person at the Library

Borrow a person not a book and engage in a conversation like no other